

Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the composition contains one or more mucoadhesive synthetic crosslinked polycarboxylic acid polymers. The Board of Appeals decision stated that subject matter of claim 22, which specifies a crosslinked polycarboxylic acid polymer, was novel and non-obvious in view of the prior art. Accordingly, this limitation has been incorporated into claim 1.

Claim 22 has been cancelled.

Claim 23 has been amended to specify that the polymer further comprises a copolymer of one or more polymers.

Claim 26 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Applicants are of the opinion that claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-17, 19-26, and 38 are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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